

HOW MANY GRADUATE?

Each year hundreds of freshmen enroll at O. U. Not all make it through to degrees. To discover what percent are successful, and why, a detailed study of the Freshman Class of 1952 is currently underway. Including the August, 1956, graduating class: 23 percent have received O. U. degrees.

FOUR YEARS is considered the normal period of time that is required for an entering freshman to complete requirements for a degree. What percent of entering freshmen would you guess complete degrees in that length of time from the University of Oklahoma?

This provocative and extremely important question for any admissions program is currently being answered by a massive study of a single class—the Freshman Class of 1952.

In a preliminary report based on six semesters work, Dean Glenn C. Couch, University College, reported (*Sooner*, May, 1956) that it appeared that about one in three was moving towards graduation. Now the first results of four full years of study are in with the following results:

1) In September, 1952, 1,829 freshmen entered the University. At the end of four complete years of study, 348 or 19.0 per cent had graduated.

2) A slightly higher number, 376 and percent 20.6, were still in college.

3) 1,105 or 60.4 percent were out of school.

(Of the 376 who were listed as still in college, 73 received degrees in the August commencement, making the total class members who had received degrees four full years and an additional summer after original enrollment 421 and 23 per cent.)

Here's the college-by-college breakdown of those who graduated in June, 1956 four years after initial enrollment:

College of Arts and Sciences—489 freshmen sought a degree in this college. At the end of four years, 83 (17%) had graduated from Arts & Sciences. Many of those who originally had planned majors in the college switched to one of the professional

schools with the results: 21 graduated from Business Administration; 8 from College of Education; 1 from Fine Arts and 1 from Pharmacy. Of the original aspirants, 84 (17.2%) are still in school and 291 (59.5%) are no longer in school.

College of Business Administration—303 students sought a degree within this college. The four year results: 52 (17.2%) received degrees in business; 5 (1.6%) earned Arts and Sciences degrees; 6 (2%) Education degrees. Of original 303 students, 31 (10.2%) were still in school and 209 (69%) were no longer in school.

College of Education—49 freshmen in '52 sought degrees from this college. The four year results: 10 received degrees in Education; 1 in Arts and Sciences, and 1 in Business. Of those who sought degrees in Education, two (4.1%) were still in school and 35 were no longer in school.

College of Engineering—536 students originally planned to graduate in Engineering. The four year results: 32 (6%) graduated with Engineering degrees; 13 with Arts & Sciences degrees; 15 with Business degrees; 5 in Education; 1 in Fine Arts and 1 in Pharmacy. Of original aspirants, 180 (33.6%) were still in school and 289 (53.9%) were no longer in school.

College of Fine Arts—101 students indicated a desire for degrees within this college. The four year results: 11 (10.9%) had completed degrees in Fine Arts; 3 (3%) held degrees from Arts & Sciences and 2 (2%) graduated from Education. Sixteen (15.8%) original Fine Arts aspirants were still in school and 69 (68.3%) were no longer in school.

College of Pharmacy—28 students originally sought degrees from this college. The four year results: 6 (21.4%) graduated in Pharmacy. Two (7.1%) of the original 28 are still in school and 20 (71.4%) are no longer in school.

Undecided—323 students were undecided

when they entered school in 1952 about their courses of study. The four year results: 36 (11.1%) had graduated from Arts & Sciences; 15 (4.6%) from Business; 15 (4.6%) from Education; 1 (0.3%) from Engineering; 2 (0.6%) from Fine Arts and 1 (0.3%) from Pharmacy. Sixty-one (18.9%) were still in school and 192 (59.4%) were no longer in school.

It can be noted that many students of the '52 freshmen switched majors during the course of their four college years. The total graduates from each college for 1952 freshmen only looks like this:

Arts and Sciences: 141 (40.5%)
Business: 104 (29.9%)
Education: 46 (13.2%)
Engineering: 33 (9.5%)
Fine Arts: 15 (4.3%)
Pharmacy: 9 (2.6%)

An interesting portion of the report is provided by the grade point averages of the three groups—those who graduated, those who are still in school and those who have dropped out. Those who completed their degrees had a grade point average of 3.07 (4.0 is perfect); those still in college have a grade point average of 2.58; those who dropped out had an average of 1.64, well below "C" average of 2.0.

It should be pointed out that the 60.4% dropouts were by no means all academic failures. Many left school for a variety of other reasons.

One final point, the report covers only freshmen who entered O. U. in September, 1952. The difference between the 348 figure for four-year degree winners and actual number of graduates in June, 1956 (approximately 1,800) is composed of transfer students and students who completed degrees from other O. U. classes.

In subsequent reports, the relationship between high scores on placement examinations and the probability of graduation will be developed.

By end of four full years and an extra summer, only one of four freshmen of the 1952 class had completed requirements for degree from O. U.